

STATE OF NEVADA

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Fast Facts

Overview:

In 1994, the national Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, a federal entitlement program, began to provide vaccines at no cost to VFC-eligible children through enrolled public and private providers. All children 0-18 years of age who are Medicaid enrolled or Medicaid eligible, uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native, or underinsured are eligible to receive VFC vaccine. The VFC program covers most children who do not have insurance coverage. The Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) took this concept a step further and has worked diligently to finance and provide all vaccines to all Nevada children, regardless of insurance status, at no cost. Most states across the nation do not provide vaccines to insured children.

Due to decreased federal funds, the increasing number of vaccines, increased cost of vaccines, along with a growing population, the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) is no longer able to provide free vaccines to children who have health insurance.

Nevada's Vaccine Policy

Since 1994 the NSIP has provided all or most vaccines to all children in NV at no cost. As one of the last states in the nation to provide this type of vaccine policy, a critical decision had to be made as we face drastic decreases in funding coupled with increasing vaccine costs. It was determined to change our policy in Nevada to Vaccine For Children (VFC) only.

For Providers:

Why should I become a VFC provider?

- Reduces your out of pocket costs because you don't have to buy vaccine with your own money for VFC vaccines.
- Saves your patients out of pocket costs because the vaccines are free to VFC eligible children.
- Allows you to charge an admin fee to offset your cost of doing business.
- Covers all ACIP recommended vaccines.
- Enhances all services you provide relative to EPSDT.
- You no longer have to refer patients to public health to get their vaccines.
- Helps to build your business by providing badly needed government services to patients in need.

How do I become a VFC provider?

Contact Linda Platz, RN at the Nevada State Immunization Program at (775) 684-5913 or via email at lplatz@health.nv.gov

To become a VFC provider do I need to enroll as a Medicaid provider first?

No, you may become a VFC provider without becoming a Medicaid provider. Under the VFC program you may vaccinate the uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native if you are not also a Medicaid provider.

Is there any financial incentive?

- VFC allows you to charge an administrative fee to offset your costs of doing business.
- Participating in VFC reduces your out of pocket costs because you don't have to buy vaccine with your own money.
- VFC will save your patients out of pocket costs because the vaccines are free.
- Providing VFC vaccine to your patients will help build your business by providing government services to patients in most in need.

What are the costs for vaccines?

Vaccines costs are established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, however, there are discounts available through most pharmaceutical companies. For more information on this vaccine discount opportunity contact your local pharmaceutical representative.

Are children who are enrolled in the State's Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) eligible for VFC?

Nevada Check Up is an insurance program administered by Medicaid. These children are not Medicaid enrolled but may receive all of the state supplied vaccines. Children who are covered by SCHIP or Nevada Check Up are reimbursed differently than the VFC children. Providers must request reimbursement accordingly.

What assistance will be available for providers?

There are free informational and training sessions available throughout the state. In addition, please contact the Nevada State Immunization Program staff with any questions.

Nevada Immunization Learning Exchange (NILE)

The educational program consists of four parts presented by public health and community members who are experts in the following areas:

1. Office strategies to increase patient immunization
2. Vaccine administration
3. Nevada Vaccine Program
4. Introduction to Nevada's immunization information system – WebIZ

NILE programs are held regionally and are scheduled throughout the year. Please visit www.immunizenevada.org for dates, locations, and the opportunity to register for a NILE program in your area.

Billing and Coding for Vaccines, and Contracting with Insurance Providers

Various informational and practical sessions will be available in the coming months. Please visit www.immunizenevada.org for dates, locations and the opportunity to register for a program in your area.

Additional training includes:

Nevada's Statewide Immunization Information System – WebIZ

Introductory and advanced classes on using WebIZ are available. *Web IZ is available for any provider, not just VFC providers.* For more information on class date and times go to the Nevada State Health Division website.

For Parents:

Which children are eligible for VFC program?

Children through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to receive VFC vaccine:

- **Medicaid eligible:** A child who is eligible for the Medicaid program. (For the purposes of the VFC program, the terms "Medicaid-eligible" and "Medicaid-enrolled" are equivalent and refer to children who have health insurance covered by a state Medicaid program)
- **Uninsured:** A child who has no health insurance coverage

- **American Indian or Alaska Native:** As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)
- **Underinsured:** A child who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured. Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC).

Children whose health insurance covers the cost of vaccinations are not eligible for VFC vaccines, even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met.

How do I find a VFC provider?

Please see the Nevada State Health Division website: <http://health.nv.gov>

My children are covered by Nevada Check-Up does that mean I will be billed for vaccines?

Children covered under the State Child Health Insurance Program or Nevada Check-Up receives state funded vaccines and therefore parents will not be billed for the vaccines.

Will I be billed for the administration of a vaccine?

Providers may charge you for an administration fee, however, VFC providers enrolled with Nevada Immunization program may not refuse to administer vaccines due to inability for parents to pay for administration fee.

How will I know if vaccines are covered under my health plan?

The Nevada State Health Division urges parents to check their insurance policies to see which vaccines are covered by their plans.

I just took my children to their physician for vaccines what will I see on my bill?

The billing you receive or the explanation of benefits report as it is called may include deductibles, administration fees, coinsurance and or co-payments for vaccinations that have not been billed for in the past.

I have health insurance but they do not cover vaccines, what options do I have?

There are a few options you can take. First call you health plans and discuss your questions, second many employers' health plans offer Flex Plan benefits. This option can offset the expense of out-of-pocket vaccination expenses which are not covered by insurance.

For further information:

Nevada State Immunization Program: 775-684-5900

Jo Malay, Acting Program Manager: 775-684-5934

Eric Pennington, Vaccine/Fiscal Manager: 775-684-5901

Tami Chartraw, WebIZ Manager: 775-684-4032

Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition/Southern Nevada Immunization Coalition at www.immunizenevada.org

For information on pediatric coding for Healthcare and Medical Professionals, visit http://codinginstitute.com/spec_pediatrics.html Must be a member to receive the monthly newsletter.

Vaccine Pharmaceutical representatives are a valuable source of information:

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Mary Bodendorfer

888-685-5961 VM 76831

Brock Nyborg, Reno @ ext.78444

Ileana Reinikainen, Las Vegas @ ext. 79361

Bryce Newbold, Elko @ ext. 79049

Public Health: [Working for a Safer and Healthier Nevada](#)

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